

January 2011

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- Our Vision
- Publication/Spire Deadline
- Altar flowers
- Church hours
- Electronic giving
- Church hours
- Go green
- Facebook/twitter
- Church Hours
- Pod Cast Sermons
- Mark your calendar

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# THE SPIRE



## JERI'S CORNER

I wish you all a Happy New Year, and with that blessing I would like to tell you about a blessing we were able to participate in as a church.

A couple of days before Christmas, Alison Jordan made me aware that the homeless women we care for on Wed. nights had no place to stay on Christmas Day. Lois Haines, Alison, and I brainstormed on the spot about what we could do. It was decided that we could host these ladies at our church on Christmas Day. Lois would greet them on Christmas morning, Alison would provide the Christmas dinner and I would make sure they settled in for the night and give them transportation in the morning. But word got out and before we knew it, people started contributing food and gifts and some came themselves to visit with the women. I would like to thank Lois Haines, the Jordan's, the Winestock's, the Morrison's, Elsie Chapman, Pat Shaw,

the Harris's, and the Cumming's and all those who have contributed to the program for bringing Christmas to those who weren't sure if Christmas would come to them. We had seven ladies that stayed the night.

The women wrote a note of thanks to our church that I would like to share with you.

*Greetings to all in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ our Lord,*

*I wish to convey thanks for everything that everyone has done for all the ladies in the i-HELP program. You have gone above and beyond in showing and demonstrating the love of Christ.*

*I pray that Christ bless you in all endeavors that you do in the name of Jesus Christ.*

- Rev. Lisa K. Owens
- Karen Schaeffer
- Alice McShea
- Christine Gallerano
- Vicki Lamoreaux

Blessings and Peace,  
Pastor Jeri



## OUR VISION

We strive to reach out to the community through:

- A ministry of continuous spiritual growth;
- A ministry with children, youth, and families in all their diversity, and;
- A ministry of music and the arts.

## LIKED THE SERMON?

You can now download the sermons onto your Ipod or listen via your computer.

Visit [firstchurchofmesa.com](http://firstchurchofmesa.com) and start reaching out electronically to friends, family, and those who are looking for God!

## JANUARY SERMON SERIES



### January 9th—January 23rd

How do we care for and cherish things that are important to us and those we love? How do we provide good stewardship both now and in the future?



### January 30th—March 6th

What can we learn about faith and our relationships with God and others from television?

## JANUARY SCHEDULE

### January 2nd

[Communion Sunday]

Sermon Title:  
Happy New Year!!



### January 9th

Sermon Series: *Pay It Forward*

Sermon Title: "Taking Care of Myself"



### January 16th

Sermon Series: *Pay It Forward*

Sermon Title: "We are the World"



### January 23rd

Sermon Series: *Pay It Forward*

Sermon Title: "Using God's Gifts"



**January 30th***Sermon Series: TV Land**Sermon Title: "The Andy Griffith Show—All You Need is Love"***February 6th****[Communion Sunday]***Sermon Series: TV Land**Sermon Title: "Betty White—You're never too old"***JANUARY LITURGISTS**

Jan. 2

9:00 Rev. John O'Neal

11:11 Rev. John O'Neal

Jan. 9

9:00 Chloe Rizzo

11:11 Julie Harris

Jan. 16

9:00 Debbie Ferguson

11:11 Margie Jensen

Jan. 23

9:00 Lisa Rittenhouse

11:11 Rock Robison

Jan. 30

9:00 Jane Rizzo

11:11 Jean Harris

**INVITE FROM PASTOR BOB**

In 1970 a Christian Educator named John Westerhoff wrote a book entitled *Will Our Children Have Faith?* It is an important question for pastors and Sunday School teachers, but it is an even more important question for parents and grand parents. Why? Because when all is said and done, it is the responsibility of parents to see that their children are nurtured in the Christian faith.

I've encountered many well-intentioned parents over the years who are intimidated by the thought of nurturing the faith of their own children. Most of the time the parents felt inadequate for the task. The most common objections I've heard over the years are: I don't know enough about the Bible; or Isn't that what Sunday School teachers are supposed to do; or I wouldn't know where or how to begin.

If you would like to take a more active role in nurturing the Christian faith of your children but have felt intimidated or inadequate, I hope you will join me at 12:30 PM on Sunday, January 30, 2011, in the Assembly Room. I will be sharing some easy-to-implement and child-friendly ideas for nurturing your children in their Christian faith. If you have ideas and/or experiences that have worked for you and your children, please plan to share them with the rest of us. Child care, pizza, and beverages will be provided. A free-will offering to defray the cost of lunch will be received. Please call the Church Office (480.969.5577) to let us know you plan to attend, and feel free to call me if you have any questions.

- Rev. Bob Mitchell

**Publication Deadlines**

Sunday Bulletins /  
Announcements

**Wednesday Noon**

**Spire Deadline**

All articles to be submitted to the church office no later than

**January 10<sup>th</sup>**

(Holidays and vacations may advance or delay these deadlines by a day or two.)

**Altar Flowers**

To place flowers on the altar in honor or memory of someone special contact the Church Office at 480-969-5577

### CHURCH HOURS

M-TH:  
9—4:30 pm

Friday:  
9—2 pm

### Electronic Giving

Electronic giving is a direct debit program where your contribution is debited automatically from your checking or savings account, either weekly or monthly. This is an easy way to fulfill your stewardship commitment, even when you are unable to attend church. You can pick up an authorization form in the church office, and talk to Phyllis Kern Howe for further details.

### HOSPITALITY NEWS

#### Volunteer Commitments

If you haven't filled out a Volunteer Commitment Form, please do so as soon as possible! Everyone needs to sign up even if you signed up last March. This includes anything you may be presently involved in such as your Sunday School class, choir, a mission that you are assisting with, etc. You can



get a form from the office, an usher, or at the Welcome and Information Booth. **Committee chairmen will receive a list of the members in January. Our new volunteer year will begin in February.**

#### Secret Shopper Cards

Many of you will be visiting other churches during your travels this Christmas. Please take a minute to fill out one of our "Secret Shopper" cards (there are only two questions) which will assist us in providing better hospitality to our visitors and members.



**Happy New Year from the Hospitality Team!**

### MISSIONS/OUTREACH

#### Blood Drive

The blood drive held at our church on November 28, 2010, was very successful.

We are grateful to our members who volunteered to be "life-saving heroes" through the giving of one pint of blood. Those who gave blood were Nancy Likens, Walt Ahland, Eva Hill, Wayne Hill, Virginia Berg, Jeri Wilkerson, Ann Baum, Keith Baum, Sherry Olges, Rock Robinson, Barbara Boggess, Rick Phillips, Judie Thompson, Dale Harwood, Margaret Desenberg, Walt Bartlow, Jane Rizzo, Virgil and Mary Schatz. A very big thank you to each of you!

#### Christ in Christmas/Journey to the Manger

We want to thank Pat Shaw, Fran Kuck and Sally Tripoli for planning, organizing and executing the Christ in Christmas/Journey to the Manger. Their many hours spent on this labor of love shone through each Sunday morning in Advent. The culmination of it on the last Sunday of Advent combined with the Choir Cantata was a great gift to our congregation. Thank you to all who contributed to adding to the joy of our Advent Season.

## MISSIONS/OUTREACH

The Clothing Closet is Coming Soon!

The racks are full with over 200 outfits, sorted by size and color. What we need are women's neutral, solid color pants and colored tops in **sizes, 0, 2 and 16+** that can be worn under a uniform smock and **comfortable work shoes**. We could also use some **fall jackets** and **winter coats**. The Clothing Closet could also use a few nice **shoe racks** to display more of our shoe selection.

## YOUTH BOOK & BAKE SALE

The 5th and 6th Grade Sunday School class will be holding a Book & Bake Sale on Sunday January 23rd in Fellowship Hall from 10:10am—11:00am. Come have



an "Epic Experience" while browsing books, enjoying baked goods, and listening to music with our youth to help benefit the i-HELP



homeless women's mission from the money raised with the sale.

## FINANCIAL GUIDANCE



Financial Peace University is a 13 week, video based, small group study that teaches families how to beat debt, build wealth, and give like never before. This program is for you if your credit cards are your emergency fund; you're intrigued by the word "plasectomy"; you want to know what God says about money; you have to sell your house to put your kids through college; or if stocks, bonds and mutual funds are friends you haven't met yet. Imagine what your finances would be like if you decided not to conform. One of the things Dave Ramsey says is: "Normal is BROKE! So be weird!" and Financial Peace University will show you exactly how to do that; how to start eliminating debt so you're free to do things you've always wanted to do! Come join us Wednesday January 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm and you'll see what this means. Call the church office at 480-969-5577 for more information.

## DON'T CONFORM TRANSFORM

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2

## HELP US GET IT RIGHT AND GO GREEN

*If your name or address is incorrect; if you prefer to receive this newsletter electronically; or you want your name removed from our mailing list, please let us know and we will be happy to make the changes. We appreciate your help!*

## Church Calendar

Is now available on the church website at [firstchurchofmesa.com/news/index.html](http://firstchurchofmesa.com/news/index.html)

## GET THE NEWS AS IT HAPPENS!

**Do you Tweet?** Find the latest happenings by following First Church @ [twitter.com/firstchurchmesa](https://twitter.com/firstchurchmesa)

**Are you on Facebook?** If so become a friend of First Church of Mesa by searching First United Methodist Church of Mesa.

Get a copy of each weeks service on CD at the Welcome Booth every Sunday.

**Pod Casting is HERE!**



## BLOG WITH THE PASTORS

Our Pastors are blogging, are you? Here is a recent post by Pastor Jim.

Have you ever heard of the phrase – Blue Christmas? Now I’m not talking about the Elvis song, I’m talking about a struggle many people have with the holiday because of issues in their own life. I think in so many ways all of us have a dose of Blue Christmas now and then...maybe not every year but at least from time to time. Do you know anyone who might be facing a blue Christmas this year? Have you wondered if there are ways you might help? Maybe you’re struggling yourself. I think the best way out of the fog of the blue Christmas feeling is to focus outside ourselves...to think of others and their needs. What do you think?

Blog about Jim’s sermon, upcoming events at First Church, or just your own theological thoughts. Invite friends and family who are lost or looking for a church to read some of Pastor Jim’s blogs. You’ll also find The Farrer Side on the blog, so you can blog about Pastor Jim’s thoughts.

First Church is reaching out to accommodate everyone’s form of communication, from the printed Spire, to having it e-mailed, to e-news, to Facebook, Twitter, and now blogging. This is part of The

Journey: i-serve, i-connect, i-praise. It’s your Journey and the communication committee is providing you the outlets to assist with that Journey!

## APPRECIATION

### Journey to the Manger-Flower Fund

Thank you to Linda Phillips and her team for the beautiful new decorations they installed to enhance our Christmas Worship Experience, and to the youth that decorated Earl North Hall. A special thank you goes out to the following persons who have contributed to our Journey to the Manger-Flower Fund:

Pat Shaw in memorial of Stan Shaw

Doug & Donna Conger in memorial of their parents

Ken & Mary Perkins in memorial of Mike Pavelich

Pauline Backer in memorial of Ralph Backer

Betty Black & family in memorial of Walter Black

Marla Peterson Fathauer in memorial of Helen Fathauer and Virgil Peterson

Randall & Judy Thuenen

*Thank You*

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Burdett House	1/01
Felipa Escobedo	1/01
Justin Robinson	1/01
Julia Tatom	1/01
Nathan Fancher	1/01
Valerie Jeffords	1/03
Rebekah Richgels	1/03
Sue Kilgore	1/04
Isabella Buscas	1/04
Naomi Sublett	1/05
Betty Black	1/06
Shirley Rennick	1/08
Tom Lewis	1/08
Geoff Cummings	1/08
Lola Switzer	1/09
John Friederich	1/09
James Weatherbee	1/09
Amanda Woodcock	1/10
Robert Downey	1/12
Joshua Snodgrass	1/15
Nancy Weber	1/16
Tawnie Retelny	1/16
Dale Coffin	1/18
Steve Hansen	1/18
Sherry Olges	1/18
Matt Phillips	1/18
Sheryl Hitchcock	1/19
JoAnn Ramirez Davis	1/20
Adam Snodgrass	1/20
Cecil Lackore	1/21
Caleb Standage	1/21
Kyle Standage	1/21
Larry Chenier	1/22
Belle Kramer	1/23
Cindy Hansen	1/24
Brandon Woodcock	1/25
Beverly Smith	1/26
Shannon McCraw	1/26
Shawn Wauneka	1/28
Eileen Dobson	1/29

Jamie Bering	1/29
Devon Sanitago	1/30
Alexander Bechtel	1/30
Kathleen Smith	1/31
Dean Wauneka	1/31

**ANNIVERSARY CORNER**

1/10	Royer, Tina & Ryan
1/13	Bozza, Kate & Brian
1/28	Smith, Kenneth & Beverly

**Mark  
Your  
Calendars!**

Junior and Senior  
High Youth Winter  
Camp **Saturday**  
**January 15th—**  
**Monday January**  
**17th**

Youth Book & Bake  
Sale **Sunday**  
**January 23rd**  
10:10am -11:00am

Financial Peace  
University begins  
**Wednesday January**  
**26th 6:15pm**

Congratulations  
to all our  
January  
birthdays and  
anniversaries! If  
your name is not  
on our list (or if  
you know of  
someone who  
should be),  
please call the  
church office so  
we may update  
our information.  
We truly do not  
mean to leave  
anyone out.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE SPIRE,  
15 E. 1st Ave., Mesa AZ 85210



**DATED MATERIAL– DO NOT DELAY**

Pastors:

Rev. Dr. Jim Farrer

Rev. Jeri Wilkerson

Rev. Dr. Bob Mitchell

Rev. Cecil Lackore - Pastor Emeritus

[www.firstchurchofmesa.com](http://www.firstchurchofmesa.com)

THE SPIRE (USMC 944660) is published monthly, by the First United Methodist Church, 15 East First Avenue, Mesa AZ 85210, a nonprofit organization. Periodical postage paid at Mesa AZ 85201-9996.

***THE SPIRE***

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Office Hours: 9 am - 4:30 pm Monday - Thursday

9 am - 2 pm Friday

Editorial Policies: The mission of *The Spire* is to be one communication source for the First United Methodist Church of Mesa. Other communication sources include e-mails, the Sunday church bulletins and verbal announcements made at services or other official meetings. Chairpersons of Boards and Committees, coordinators, members and friends of First UMC may submit announcements, information or items of interest that relate to the mission of the church.

The Editor shall reserve the right to either accept or reject articles, to edit for space, grammar and accuracy. Currently, the Spire is being published monthly. Deadline for submission of articles are published both in this newsletter and weekly bulletins.

**The deadline for submission of articles for the next issue is January 10, 2011.**

*The Spire* Newsletter Team

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